Counterfeit Stamp Racket

2894. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major racket in sale of counterfeit stamps and non-judicial stamp paper has been unearthed recently; and

(b) if so, the amount involved in such racket during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) Sale of counterfeit stamps and non-judicial stamp paper is a crime committed under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code which is a State subject. Central Government does not maintain any record in this regard.

Branch offices of Oriental Bank of India on Rent

†2895. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) the number of branch offices taken on rent by the Oriental Bank of India, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that by neglecting the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, the Managers of the said bank, have decided to hire the buildings at increased rates by vacating the buildings at cheaper rates;

(c) if so, on which basis this decision has been taken; and

(d) the loss suffered by Government due to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) State-wise position of premises taken on rent by Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) is given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) OBC have further reported that the acquisition of premises for the proposed branch and alternate premises including vacation of premises at different centres are duly approved by the Premises Committee constituted as per the detailed operational guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India/Indian Banks' Association. These guidelines have not been violated.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.